



P.O. Box 74
Pescadero CA 94060

November 14, 2024

Rob Bartoli, Executive Officer
San Mateo County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo)
455 County Center
Redwood City, CA 94063

Dear Mr. Bartoli and Honorable Members of the LAFCo,

The Pescadero Municipal Advisory Council (PMAC) respectfully submits this letter of recommendation regarding the proposed extension of CSA-11 to annex the high school, as discussed at our recent council meeting held November 12, 2024. At that meeting, PMAC voted unanimously in favor of the annexation. **We urge you to move forward without further delay to accomplish the changes that will bring potable water to Pescadero High School and provide adequate facilities for CalFire Station 59.**

As you know, PMAC is tasked with actively encouraging and coordinating public input on all matters of concern to Pescadero, Loma Mar, and the South Coast, and determining community positions for promotion and advocacy. At our November 12 meeting, we reviewed the concerns of the Farm Bureau, we heard from La Honda-Pescadero Unified School District Supervisor Amy Wooliever, and we also heard a presentation from Jonathan Cox of CalFire, Sophie Mintier of the San Mateo County Planning Dept., and Deputy County Executive Adam Ely, as well the project managers for the Station 59 project. More than 50 community members were in attendance at the meeting, and nearly half of these spoke during public comment, expressing a variety of arguments for and against the project.

Based on everything we heard, PMAC voted unanimously to support this extension of the CSA-11 Water District. However, this decision was made amidst legitimate concerns voiced by our community. While all are in agreement that the students at our local school need clean water as soon as possible, many residents, local farmers, and CSA-11 customers raised red flags about the annexation's impact on the local aquifer and the long-term sustainability of our water resources. Specifically:

1. Aquifer Viability and Future Water Supply: Community members expressed apprehension over whether our aquifer could sustainably support increased demand

without jeopardizing its future viability. Although studies conservatively project sufficient supply for the next 30-40 years or more, the possibility of significant overdraft and future depletion raises concerns. We recommend that the presently unfunded item in the County's budget (p.349) for an aquifer study should be funded and commenced as soon as possible.

2. Exploration of Alternatives: Some residents and representatives from the agricultural sector, such as the Farm Bureau, urge further investigation of alternative or supplemental water sources and storage solutions as a top priority. Suggestions include exploring additional well sites and developing water storage infrastructure that could serve as a backup. These options could potentially support the school's and community's needs without further stressing our aquifer.

3. Transparency and Community Involvement: There are legitimate feelings among many constituents that they were not sufficiently informed or involved in the annexation process. Issues such as inadequate community notification, the limited number of consultations, and a perceived lack of responsiveness from the County regarding requests for updates were common points of contention. Many called for improved communication and clearer channels for community input to build confidence in the democratic decision-making process.

4. Water Line Extension for Adjoining Property Owners: PMAC heard comments that the proposed water line extension should also be made available as an option to the 6-7 residences that currently rely on well water along the route of the extension.

PMAC recognizes the immediate need for clean water at the high school, and for improvements to conditions at the fire station, changes that would result in improved health, safety, and value for the entire community. We also recognize the community's concerns over long-term prospects, including sustainable management of the CSA-11 water supply, exploring viable alternative sources, and committing to transparent, inclusive dialogue with all stakeholders. With thoughtful attention to these issues, the annexation can proceed in a way that ensures both sustainable water resources and meaningful benefits for all community members. **We urge you to proceed as swiftly as possible with the work already underway, to avoid further delays, and, going forward, to consider alternative and additional sources of water as we move into an uncertain future.** Thank you for your work to support our communities here on the South Coast.

Sincerely,
/s/ Mark Wallace

Mark Wallace, Chair, Pescadero Municipal Advisory Council (PMAC)
On behalf of the members of PMAC

cc: San Mateo County District Supervisor Ray Mueller
cc: San Mateo County Executive Mike Callagy
cc: LHPUSD Superintendent Amy Wooliever